

## **Hepatitis A Outbreak Prevention and Control Activities- 2005**

### **Action Steps Completed**

1. On 2/25/05, a Health Alert Network (HAN) sent to providers in western NH describing the current outbreak, identified high-risk populations, and usual clinical presentation of Hepatitis A. This HAN also requested increased vigilance and testing for symptomatic individuals and vaccination of individuals at high risk for exposure.
2. DPHS ordered 2000 Hepatitis A Vaccine doses for identified high-risk individuals. This vaccine is being distributed through the New Hampshire STD/HIV clinics to high-risk individuals. (In partnership with the HIV/STD program)
3. A letter was sent to area Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Treatment programs requesting that high-risk individuals be referred to area STD clinics to receive Hepatitis A vaccine. Enclosed with this letter were a copy of the February 25 HAN, the newly developed Hepatitis A fact sheet and an informational pamphlet.
4. Hepatitis A vaccination promotion started through all alcohol treatment centers, methadone centers and drug treatment facilities. This promotion was done via the "Hepatitis A fact sheet" and the "informational pamphlet."
5. Outreach and education focused toward homeless shelters.
6. NH Board of Pharmacy contacted; we asked pharmacists to give the informational pamphlet and Hepatitis A fact sheet to individuals in high-risk categories.
7. Hepatitis A prevention Videoconference broadcast from the Fire academy, in collaboration with the Restaurant and Lodging Association. Target audiences were the managers of food establishments and supermarkets.
8. "Hepatitis A Basics" video taped at the Londonderry local access channel. The tape is available for distribution to all local access channels
9. Fact sheet on hepatitis A prevention for food workers developed.
10. Two new HAN messages sent to providers reminding them about and updating them on the Hepatitis A situation.

### **Action Steps under development**

1. Clinic for population at risk and their contacts to take place in Concord (Concord Hospital) on Monday (7/11/05) and Thursday (7/14/05)
2. Development of vaccination clinics for NH citizens undergoing drug treatment in partnership with the drug and alcohol treatment program (now at the Division of Public Health Services)
3. Development of vaccination clinics for NH citizens with dual diagnosis, through partnership with the Community Mental Health Centers (Division of Behavioral Health)
4. Work begun with ERs across the state to provide vaccine for any NH resident with risk factors for Hep A who shows up requesting other services.